Protection of domestic industries outside SEZ

1641. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no provision has been made in the SEZ Act for protection of indigenous industries from the competition of SEZ units, in so far as the domestic market is concerned;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the absence of proper restriction on the movement of SEZ products to the domestic market, domestic industries outside the SEZ continue to struggle to compete; and

(c) if answers to part (a) and (b) above are in the affirmative what action Government propose to take to protect the domestic industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) In terms of Section 30 of the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005, any goods removed from a Special Economic Zone to the Domestic Tariff Area shall be chargeable to duties of customs including anti-dumping, countervailing and safeguard duties under the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, where applicable, as leviable on such goods when imported. This provision is expected to offer reasonable protection to the domestic industries.

(c) Does not arise.

WTO Ministerial meet in Hong Kong

1642. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial meet was held in Hong Kong in December last;

(b) if so, the issues discussed and decisions taken therein; and

(c) whether any policy guidelines were adopted to protect the interest of the farmers in small and developing countries against the protectionist subsidies granted by developed countries for promoting their farmers' interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes. Sir. The Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference was held from 13-18 December, 2005 at Hong Kong. This Ministerial Conference discussed among other issues, issues relating to reduction of domestic supports, elimination of export subsidies, sensitive products, special products and special safeguard mechanism in agriculture; elimination of export subsidies and accelerated reduction of domestic support in cotton; non-agricultural market access; services; development package for least developed countries and other development issues under the Doha Work Programme.

The decisions taken at the Ministerial Conference are reflected in the Ministerial Declaration adopted by the Ministers on 18th December, 2005. Copies of the Ministerial Declaration have been placed in the Parliament Library.

(c) The Hong Kong Ministerial Conference resolved that there would be effective cuts in trade distorting domestic support consistent with the July Framework Agreement of the WTO adopted on 1st August, 2004. Further, it was resolved that parallel elimination of all forms of export subsidies and disciplines on all export measures with equivalent effect would be completed by the end of 2013, with a substantial part being eliminated half-way through. The developing countries will have the flexibility to self-designate an appropriate number of tariff lines as Special Products guided by indicators based on the criteria of food security, livelihood security and rural development. Developing country members will also have the right to have recourse to a Special Safeguard Mechanism based on import quantity and price triggers, with precise arrangements to be further defined to protect them against surge in imports or sudden decline in prices of agriculture commodities.

Grievances of SEZ Developers

1643. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some developers have complained that the concept of single-window clearance with regard to SEZ is highly diluted and far from ideal, although the Development Commissioner has been given power,